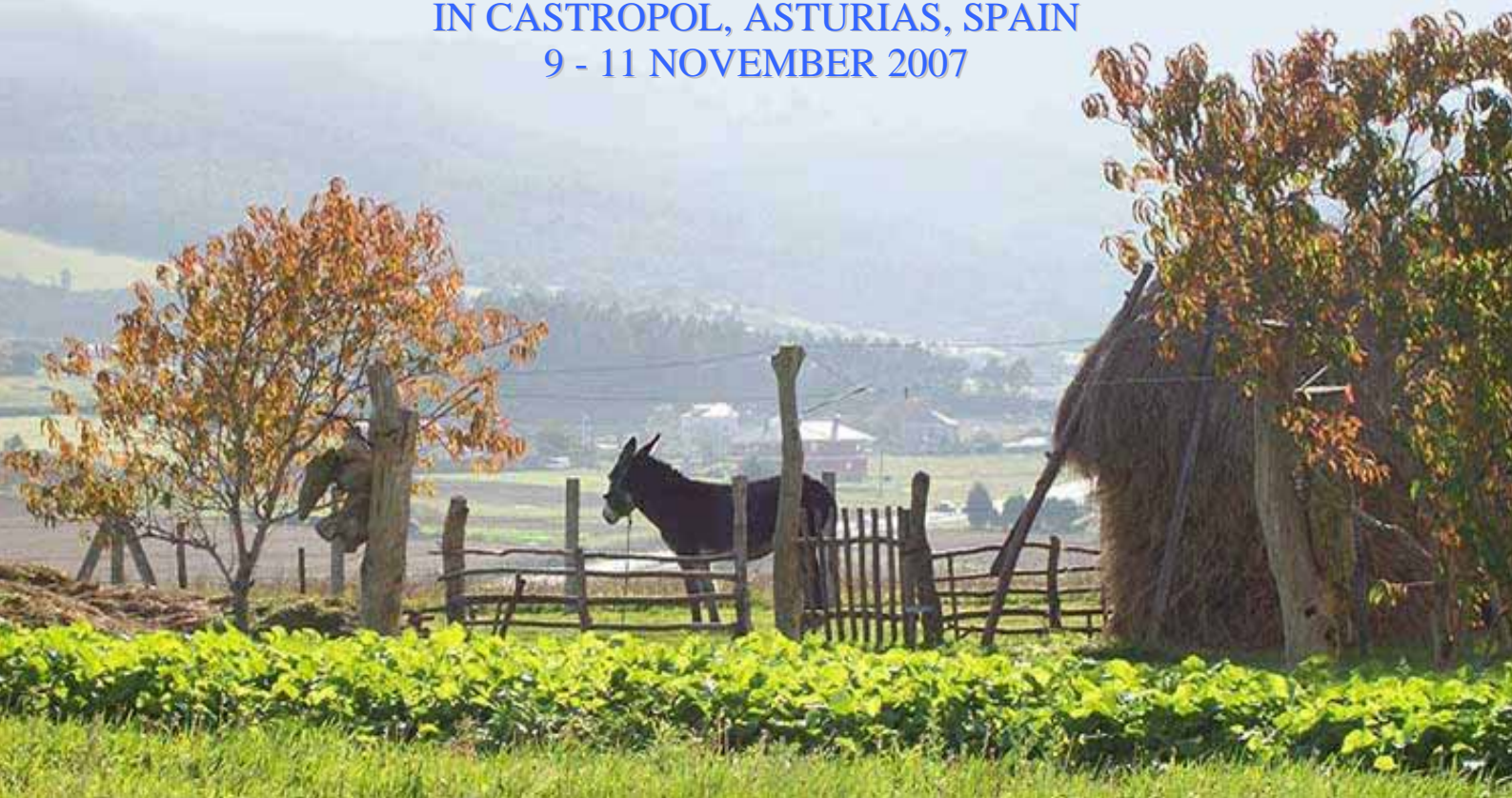


# THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SPANISH BREEDS IN CASTROPOL, ASTURIAS, SPAIN 9 - 11 NOVEMBER 2007



**Text: Elly Vogelaar. Photos: Aviculture Europe.**

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November the National Show of Spain was held, for the second time, in Castropol, Asturias, in the North-West of Spain. Many Spanish judges were present to judge the Spanish breeds and to select the National Champions, and 3 German and 3 Dutch judges were also invited to judge the 'foreign' breeds. One

of them, Ad van Benten, being internationally valued as a skilled judge concerning the Figurita Valenciana, was even asked to do the judging of the large class of this tiny Spanish pigeon breed. And he did the job to everyone's satisfaction. The other two Dutch judges were Remco de Wit (fancy pigeons) and Elly Vogelaar (bantams). Nico van Benten, after having been invited as a judge so many times before, also travelled with us to tighten the bond of friendship with the Spanish fanciers.



**Left: Inside a little church in Castropol.**

**Right: View of the river Ría del Eo and the village of Figueras, from the hotel window.**



The Spanish are very hospitable towards foreign judges (and their partners!) and everyone was welcome with the same hospitality; all four days were spent as one big family, having all the meals together, which was very pleasant but also created a special bond, as you can imagine!

**Right: A part of the group, having lunch. In front left: Gemma & Nico van Benten, right Aad Vogelaar and Remco de Wit. Below: Two German judges and Ad van Benten (left).**



Asturias was sunny, with temperatures from 17° to 19° C in the afternoon, excellent weather for the partners to go for walks in the beautiful nature or visit the nearby towns, while we were judging. However, due to the surprising things that took place, they often joined us at the show ground. Many Asturian Breeds of livestock could be admired there, such as Asturian horses, pigs, goats, sheep and even their own hybrid chicken, the Pollo Campera.

taste all the fine foods from the area, cheese, ham, fruits, nuts, octopus, (Castropol is situated near an estuary) and of course wine and La

And there were places where one could taste such as sausages, goat cheese and sheep oysters (Castropol is situated near an estuary) and of course wine and La Sidra de Asturias, a kind of apple cider, typical for the region.



**Above: School children visiting the Show, here in the hall of the 'foreign' pigeon breeds.**

**Right: A small variety of Octopus, very common here; cooked (and eaten) on the spot.**



**Right: Tasting of oysters, fresh from the river; the pride of Castropol.**

The whole organisation was in the hands of the local club "La Pinina", *Asociación de Amigos de la Avicultura Artesanal* and everything was shipshape indeed. On the first day, school children from the wide area were invited to the show, as it is customary in Spain. The buses drove to and fro!



On Saturday night, a 5 course banquet was arranged, where all prize winners and their partners joined in. In a full house and in festive mood the customary speeches were held, the prizes were awarded and the judges were thanked; a party that went on till two o'clock in the night. The only minus was that we had to be at the airport at 7 in the morning.....



**Above: Pictured in the restaurant of the banquet at Saturday night. Standing from left to right: Ramon Amenos, President of Avicultura Espana; with the microphone: Claudio Fano Pérez-Abad, President of 'LA PININA'; next to him Teodoro Moreno Rosell, President of the Federación Española de Avicultura Colombicultura y Cunicultura de Raza. Next Emilio Cirilo, councillor of the municipality of Castropol and last in line is José Angel Pérez Garcia, Mayor of Castropol.**

Some pictures of the Livestock Breeds from the area:

**Left: A rabbit called Conejo Castropol and right the Asturian Pig breed called Gochu Asturcetta.**





Left: Asturian sheep, the Oveya Xalda.  
Right below: A goat-breed from this area, the Cabra Bermeya.



Left: The Asturian horse.



Above left: The Pinta Asturiana in several recognised colour varieties, including the naked-neck.  
Above right: Pollo Campera, a free-range broiler chicken with Quality Label.

Did you know that Spain has 20 chicken breeds, from which 3 are also recognised in bantam variety and one original bantam?

# Razas de Gallinas Españolas



- 1a. Empordanesa.
- 1b. Prat.
- 1c. Penedesenca.
- 2. Sobrarbe.
- 3. Euskal Oiloa.
- 4. Pedresa.
- 5. Pinta Asturiana.

- 6. Mos.
- 7a. Pardo de León.
- 7b. Indio de León.
- 7c. Castellana.
- 8. Extremeña.
- 9. Pintarazada.
- 10a. Andaluza Sureña.

- 10b. Andaluza Azul.
- 11. Murciana.
- 12. Menorca (right) and Mallorquina.
- 13. Cara blanca.
- 14. Combatiente Español.

Entered at this show for recognition: Piñeira en Serrana de Teruel.

Bantams (*Enana*): Flor d'Ametller. (Not in the above poster.)  
Entered at this show for recognition: Kika Extremeña.

At this National Show almost all Spanish breeds were present, maybe not all of them perfect examples, but certainly worth taking a picture, for you to enjoy!  
So in the following issues we will present you with a series of photos of the Spanish Chicken breeds and the Spanish Pigeon Breeds.